

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	9553	Agenda Number	3.
Meeting Date:	9/22/2011			Department:	Austin Water Utility
Subject					
Approve a resolution authorizing the revision and extension of the fee schedule for participation under the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan – Shared Vision through September 30, 2012.					
Amount and Source of Funding					
There is no unanticipated fiscal impact.					
Fiscal Note					
A fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	The revised fee was extended by actions of the City Council and Travis County Commission from July 15, 1999 to July 14, 2000, July 15, 2000 to July 14, 2001, July 15, 2001 to July 14, 2002, July 15, 2002 to July 14, 2003, and July 15, 2003 to July 14, 2004, July 15, 2004 to July 14, 2005, July 15, 2005 to July 14, 2006, July 14, 2006 to July 14, 2007, July 15, 2007 to September 30, 2009, October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010, October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.				
For More Information:	William Conrad, 972-1661; Denise Avery, 972-0104				
Boards and Commission Action:	Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission.				
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					
Additional Backup Information					

The Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan – Shared Vision (BCCP) was based on a financing plan that used both participation fee revenues and tax increment financing (TIF) by Travis County to generate funds for acquisition of the remaining acreage needed for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. During the first two years of plan implementation, landowners were slow to participate under the BCCP and often chose the alternative route of obtaining an individual 10(a) permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, revenues from both primary financing mechanisms fell short of expectations, despite a historically high surge in land development within Travis County.

A lowering of participation fees to stimulate landowner interest in using the BCCP permit was one of the financing plan modifications recommended by the BCCP Coordinating Committee after extensive discussions with the public and the BCCP Citizens Advisory Committee. On May 4, 1998, the Coordinating Committee passed a revised fee schedule that effectively lowered most fees for BCCP participation for a period of one year. The City Council (May 21, 1998) and the Travis County Commissioners Court (June 23, 1998) also passed the revised fee resolution as an amendment to the original BCCP-Shared Vision.

On August 11, 2011 the BCCP Citizens Advisory Committee recommended continuing the current 2011 BCCP Participation fee schedule through September 30, 2012 for all fees except the Alternative Determination fee. They recommended increasing the Alternative Determination fee from \$6,500.00 per acre to \$10,000.00 per acre.

The BCCP Coordinating Committee accepted the Citizens Advisory Committee recommendations on August 22, 2011 and voted to implement the fees through September 30, 2012.

The key provisions for the revised fee structure are included in the attached resolution.